

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2007, claims 11-24, 38-49 and 56-81 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 6-10, 33, 34, 36, 37, 82 and 83 were allowed. Claims 2 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 4, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). Claims 25-26, 28-32, and 50-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Amendments

Claims 25 and 50 have been amended to specify the TCR carries one or more mutations in a CDR. This amendment is supported by the specification on page 14, lines 15-26, and claims 31 and 52, for example. Claims 2 and 5 have been made independent. Claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 25. Claim 31 has been amended as duplicative. Claim 32 has been amended to depend from claim 25. Claim 52 has been cancelled as duplicative. Claims 1, 4, and 54 have been amended to specify the high affinity TCR has a dissociation constant greater than about 10^7 M^{-1} . This amendment is supported by the specification as filed on page 3, lines 30 through page 4, line 1, for example.

No new matter is added by any amendment, and all amendments are supported by the specification and claims as filed.

35 USC 102(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 54 and 55 under 35 USC 102(a) over Manning (J. Exp. Med., Vol. 189, Feb. 1 1999, 461-470). While applicants do not concede to the rejection, in order to advance prosecution, the rejected claims have been amended to specify the binding affinity of the TCR. The Manning reference does not describe TCRs having affinities as claimed.

35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 25-26, 28-32 and 50-53 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The Office Action stated "neither the instant disclosure nor the prior art teaches any of the structural features of the claimed high affinity TCRs which would distinguish them from the wild-type TCRs from which they are derived or indeed, from any other TCRs. Merely claiming high affinity TCRs by function only (with certain dissociation constants) without a structure-function relationship does not satisfy the written description requirement in this case."

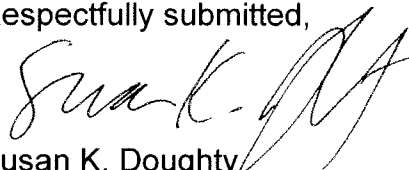
In response, the rejected claims have been amended to specify the TCR carries one or more mutations in a CDR. It is discussed in the specification that TCRs having one or more mutations in a CDR provides increased binding affinities and desirable peptide-binding specificities (see page 17, lines 26-28; and Examples 5-7, for example). It is believed this limitation provides the necessary structure-function relationship.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. If there are any other issues remaining to passage of the case to issuance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

This response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time (three months) and an authorization to charge the fee due (believed to be \$1050.00 for a three month extension of time) to Deposit Account No. 07-1969. If this is incorrect however, please charge any fees required, including any extensions of time required, to Deposit Account No. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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